

Denver

School of the



**DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Office of the Principal**

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Dear DSA Parent/Guardians,

I would like to make you aware of an incident that occurred today during high school lunch. A DSA student reported to the Administration a man brandishing a knife at the corner of Quebec and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The student immediately reported this incident to DSA Administration and the incident was immediately reported to Denver police. Other citizens in the vicinity of the incident also reported this incident to police.

Denver police are conducting an investigation, and DPS Safety and Security have been notified of this issue. The suspect boarded an RTD bus and left the vicinity before police arrived.

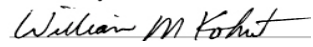
Our student did the right thing by immediately telling a trusted adult what happened. I'd like to take this opportunity to once again remind our families and students that safety is a top priority in Denver Public Schools and at Denver School of the Arts. As a community, we must work together to ensure the safety of our students at all hours of the day.

I encourage you to take this chance, once again, to talk with your child about contacting an adult immediately if they ever feel unsafe, confirming after-school arrangements together and showing your child how to dial 911 from a cell phone if he or she ever feels unsafe. Here are additional safety tips:

- Teach your children to use the buddy system and to walk with a friend or sibling whenever possible.
- Know where they are at all times. Establish good communication with children to ensure they readily will report to you any unusual occurrences.
- If strangers approach them, they should take several steps backward, stay out of arm's reach and run to a safe area. If they are confronted, they should be taught to scream, "I'm not your child" or "You're not my parent." Many times children forget to scream.
- Make sure children learn to identify safe people such as policemen and firemen. Show them where safe homes or buildings are in case they need to run to them. Identify which neighbors are available to help when you are not at home. In an emergency situation, children should run to the nearest house for assistance. **They should avoid alleys and empty lots, houses or garages.**
- Parents and children should establish a password known only to the immediate family. Children should be told not to go with an unfamiliar person without using the password.
- Parents should notify both the school and the police if an incident occurs anywhere or anytime.

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William M. Kohut". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

William Kohut  
Principal